

## HOUSE BILL NO. 198

INTRODUCED BY K. REGIER

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING THAT A BALLOT MAY NOT STATE A CANDIDATE'S TITLE OR CERTAIN OTHER DESIGNATIONS; AND AMENDING ~~SECTION~~ SECTIONS 13-12-203 AND 20-20-401, MCA."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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10 **Section 1.** Section 13-12-203, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"13-12-203. Appearance of candidate's name and party designation on ballot.** (1) Subject to  
12 13-12-202 and except as provided in 13-10-209 for nonpartisan offices and 13-10-303 for certain other  
13 candidates, in partisan elections, candidates' names must appear under the title of the office sought, with the  
14 name of the party in not more than three words appearing opposite or below the name.

15 (2) Subject to 13-12-202, in nonpartisan general elections, the candidates' names must appear under  
16 the title of the office sought, with no description or designation appearing with the name unless partisan and  
17 nonpartisan offices appear on the same ballot. In such a case, the names of nonpartisan candidates must appear  
18 with the word "Nonpartisan".

19 (3) Except as otherwise provided by this section, information about the candidate other than the  
20 candidate's name may not appear on the ballot, including a title, accomplishment, award, or degree.

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22 **SECTION 2. SECTION 20-20-401, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:**

23 **"20-20-401. Trustees' election duties -- ballot certification.** (1) The trustees are the general  
24 supervisors of school elections unless the trustees request and the county election administrator agrees to  
25 conduct a school election under 20-20-417.

26 (2) Not less than 25 days before an election, the clerk of the district shall prepare a certified list of the  
27 names of all candidates entitled to be on the ballot and the official wording for each ballot issue. The candidates'  
28 names must appear on the ballot in accordance with 13-12-203. The clerk shall arrange for printing the ballots.  
29 Ballots for absentee voting must be printed and available at least 20 days before the election, except as provided  
30 in 20-9-426(2) for a bond election not held in conjunction with a school election. Names of candidates on school

1 election ballots need not be rotated.

2 (3) Before the opening of the polls, the trustees shall cause each polling place to be supplied with the  
3 ballots and supplies necessary to conduct the election."

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